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## Madison County Board of Supervisors



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**March 17, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Madison County is closely monitoring the coronavirus pandemic crisis. Conversations with, alerts from, and web sites maintained by the Virginia Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (links below) are key sources of current and factual information on this continuously evolving problem. County officials continue to work with a series of partners in what is a team effort to organize our community's response to the situation.

Our local efforts are aligned with the national strategy that is focused on minimizing the spread of the disease by educating all individuals and implementing strategies to reduce the potential for exposure through what are by now well-known tactics: practice "social distancing" by avoiding gatherings of people and good hygiene by

- Washing your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface,
- Avoiding touching your face,
- Sneezing or coughing into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow, and
- Disinfecting frequently used items and surfaces.

Unfortunately, the battle with the pandemic has been characterized as more of a marathon than a sprint since it is expected that we will be living under conditions unlike those before now over the next several months. One factor that will be important in Madison County successfully meeting this challenge is continuing our strong traditions of looking out for one another and of neighbors helping neighbors.

As always, Madison County thanks the members of its first responder team (firemen, law enforcement, dispatch, emergency medical/rescue squad, emergency management and others) for their work to keep Madison's residents safe and healthy.

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For additional information, see

- [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
- [www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/)
- Virginia Department of Health's public information hotline: 877-ASK-VDH3
- A list of **Items of Note re Madison County's Effort to Combat the COVID-19/Coronavirus Pandemic** is attached

Information on Madison County can be found at [www.madisonco.virginia.gov](http://www.madisonco.virginia.gov). For additional information, please contact Madison County Emergency Services Coordinator John Sherer at [jsherer@madisonco.virginia.gov](mailto:jsherer@madisonco.virginia.gov).

**Items of Note re Madison County's Effort to Combat the COVID-19/Coronavirus Pandemic**  
As of March 17, 2020

1. Emergency declarations by local, state and federal governments can be found on the County's web site [here](#).
2. Feeding programs for kids (schools) and elderly/adults (MESA) have been organized. The faith community has been asked to address pediatric issues (diapers, formula, etc.)
3. Madison County Emergency Communications dispatchers have updated screening protocol so as to identify the potential for coronavirus presence before first responders arrive at the scene of an emergency.
4. The Madison County Department of Emergency Medical Services and the Madison County Rescue Squad have implemented increased awareness training elements and have reviewed and restocked their supplies of personal protective equipment.
5. Many County meetings have been cancelled and many may move to teleconference formats; the potential for video conferencing is being researched.
6. Offices that handle money (clerk of court and treasurer) have been supplied with gloves.
7. Patrons of County offices are being asked to conduct business by phone, fax and/or email when practical as a first option and via drop box or mail as a second option instead of in-person. Most County offices have restricted entry into offices to legitimate departmental business only.
8. Non-essential and non-emergency court proceedings in the Madison County circuit court have been suspended until April 6, 2020.
9. The Parks & Recreation Authority has suspended team practices and games until further notice.
10. Madison County Public Schools, including school activities, are closed until March 27, 2020 by order of the Governor.